



1 September 2020

Starting Back in September

Dear parents and carers

It has been an unusual summer with varied weather and, for many, changes or cancellations of holiday plans. I hope that you were still able to enjoy some good times as families during the summer break.

We are looking forward to having all the children back in September and we have put measures in place to ensure that their return is a safe one.

As a head teacher and a parent, I was reassured to read in the [*Statement from the UK Chief Medical Officers on schools reopening*](#) that, "compared to adults, children may have a lower risk of catching COVID-19 (lowest in younger children)" and children "definitely have a much lower rate of hospitalisation and severe disease." They concluded that it is healthier for children to be in school than at home.

All children are now expected to attend school full time. It is natural that many children will feel anxious about the return to school and so it may help if you reassure them that it is a safe place to be.

I have outlined below some of the key information that you need to know before the start of term.

Keeping children safe

To protect our children, staff and families we continue to put measures in place to reduce transmission of coronavirus:

- Preventing people with coronavirus symptoms from coming on site
- Cleaning our hands regularly
- Keeping children in class or year groups ('bubbles')
- Keeping 2 metres from anyone not in our group
- Cleaning surfaces regularly
- Using: "Catch it, Bin it, Kill it"
- Providing children with a pencil case of equipment on their table
- Staggered start and end times
- Separate breaks for each phase with separate areas for each year group
- Providing access to tests for any families where a member has coronavirus symptoms

We ask parents and carers to help us by:

- Keeping your child at home and informing us if anyone in your family has coronavirus symptoms
- Not gathering on the school site or by the entrance gates
- Dropping off and collecting your child only at the correct time
- Keeping 2m from the classroom doors when dropping off your child (Years 3 and 4)
- Waiting in the allocated area for your child's class when collecting your child
- Leaving the site as soon as you have dropped off or picked up your child
- Only meeting with your child's teacher, office staff or family worker (Mr Finch) *by appointment* (please phone the office)
- Observing social distancing around the site
- Acting promptly on any advice to isolate or to access coronavirus tests.

Please support these measures. Even if you may not be concerned personally about the risk of coronavirus, please remember that a number of our families have members who would be very susceptible to the effects of the coronavirus and, as a community, I would like us to protect those families and their children.

To protect our teaching staff, please do not try to talk to your child's teacher at the classroom door. Instead, please contact the office so that you can meet with the teacher at a time and place where this can be arranged safely on site or via telephone.

Please note that facemasks are not required for primary children (except by individual medical advice). If your child will be wearing a facemask to/from school, please show them how to remove it hygienically when they get to school.

Do please contact the school office if:

- your child has received new medical advice to remain at home
- your child needs extra protection at school due to a medical condition
- your child needs to quarantine after returning from a country that is not in the '[travel corridor list](#)'.

Some practical details for this term – lunches and bags

- Our kitchen will re-open to serve school dinners from Monday 7 September. The menu is available on the [school website](#).
- Children may bring a named bag for carrying their reading book, healthy snack, homework, etc. and a named water bottle for use in the classroom.
- Children with packed lunches may bring a named lunchbox.
- Please note that following our new [Healthy Eating Policy](#), packed lunches should not include a drink – all children will have water provided in the dining hall.
- Children may select school dinners or packed lunch on a daily basis (by telling their teacher at morning registration).
- For our new pupils, letters with information on how to register for online payments for lunches and trips will be sent home on 3rd September.

Learning

Our teachers will adjust the curriculum to take into account the impact of the COVID closure on children's learning. Children will have a weekly Values & Wellbeing lesson as well as other activities to address any anxieties that they may have following the long closure.

As teachers will be revising the curriculum, we will not issue our usual Curriculum Newsletters until October.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing

Anyone who lives, works or studies in Luton can be tested for coronavirus (COVID-19), whether or not they have symptoms. Tests can be booked [online](#) or by telephoning 119 and there are walk-in or drive-through tests available.

Remote learning in the event of a partial or full school closure

In the event of a local outbreak, the Public Health England health protection team or local authority may advise us to close temporarily – fully or partially - to help control transmission. In such a case, we will provide remote education for pupils affected by the closure.

Where a class, group or small number of pupils need to self-isolate, or there is a local lockdown requiring pupils to remain at home, we will offer remote education (via our Google Classroom or printed resources). Please note that remote education is only available to children who have to isolate on medical grounds or when a local lockdown is in place and not to any other children.

How we will respond to confirmed cases of coronavirus in our school community

We have clear protocols and procedures in place to respond to any confirmed cases of coronavirus amongst our school community. In the event of a confirmed case in our school, clear SMS messages and emails will only be sent to those parents and carers this affects.

I would appreciate it if you would follow the instructions contained in these communications as a matter of priority. If you do not receive such communication but become aware that other parents or carers with children attending the school have done, I would politely request that you appreciate and trust the school's reasons for concentrating this communication to specific parents and carers.

Castle Club childcare (breakfast and afterschool club)

This term, Castle Club will operate in the hall of Someries Infant School, using the outside entrance to the hall. Places are limited. To find out more or to book a place for your child, please see the information at www.someriesthroughcare.co.uk/our-extended-day/castle-club

I hope your child enjoys their first two mornings back at school!

Yours sincerely, Mr Hunt

Reminders

Healthy eating

At the end of last year we revised our healthy eating policy, to bring it in line with the infant school policy and to encourage healthier snacks and packed lunches.

It can be a long time from breakfast until school dinner time, and we encourage children to bring in a small healthy snack to eat at break time. *Please note that during September we will **not** be selling snacks at break time.*

This snack should be named and should be either a cereal bar (without peanuts) or fruit.

Children may not be allowed to eat their snack if it does not meet our guidelines. Please do not send your child into school with an unhealthy option such as a chocolate bar or crisps. (If this happens, the snack will be returned to parents with a slip explaining why it was not allowed and suggesting alternatives.)

Please note that packed lunches should not include a drink – all children have water provided in the dining hall.

Timings for the September start

Term starts for all children on **Thursday 3rd September (morning only)**.

Starting with two half days:

To allow children who have been out of school for a long time to have a successful re-integration to school, *the first two days, Thursday 3rd and 4th September, are 'mornings only'*. On these days, you will need to pick your child up at the end of morning school at the times below. We will then continue with full days from Monday 7th September using the staggered times below.

Staggered start and end times:

To reduce the number of people on site and to keep both children and adults safe, we will have staggered start and end times for the children.

Class	Start time	Drop off point	End time	Collection point	End time for 3 & 4 Sept
3L	8:40	Classroom	3:10	Year 3 quad	12:10
3D	8:50	Classroom	3:20	Year 3 quad	12:20
4O	8:40	Classroom*	3:10	Playground above Year 4 steps	12:10
4A	8:45	Classroom*	3:15	Playground above Year 4 steps	12:15
5H	8:45	Front of school	3:15	Ramp outside Year 5 by hut	12:15
5P	8:50	Front of school	3:20	Car park between infants & juniors	12:20
6A	8:45	Front of school	3:15	Outside study	12:15
6P	8:50	Front of school	3:20	Steps by the library	12:20

(*Classroom for the first two weeks of term, then front of school)

These staggered times fit with the 'soft start' approach that the infants school will be using and you will be able to drop off siblings at the infant school immediately after dropping off your junior children here.

Timetable

Arrive	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Leave	Leave on first 2 days
8:40	3L	4O			3:10	12:10
8:45		4A	5H	6A	3:15	12:15
8:50	3D		5P	6P	3:20	12:20

- Only one adult should come on site from each family.
- Please leave the site as soon as you can.

Thank you for supporting us with these arrangements.

Uniform

We expect all children to be in full school uniform. (We will let you know PE days for each class next week.) *If you need to get items of uniform, please contact our supplier: Ricky's Fashions, 71-72 Market Hall, The Mall, Luton, LU1 2TB (open Tuesday to Saturday, 10:00am to 4:00pm): email - ployal2012@gmail.com, phone - 07476 205255 or 01582 456609.*